Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 12515 211319Z ACTION EB-08

R 211313Z DEC 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4305

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITIES: RUBBER: PROPOSED FIELD

WORKSHOP IN KUALA LUMPUR

REFERENCE: GENEVA 12110

1. DEPARTMENT MAY BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF CABLE DATED 16 DECEMBER FROM UNCTAD SECGEN CORREA REGARDING PROPOSED FIELD WORKSHOP ON RUBBER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CABLE PROPOSES ALTERNATE DATES OF 30 JANUARY - 11 FEBRUARY OR 9 - 24 FEBRUARY. IT WAS MISSION'S IMPRESSION THAT INFORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTACTS BETWEEN MAJOR CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND PRODUCERS DURING WEEK OF AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING INDICATED GENERAL BELIEF AMONG CONSUMERS THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO ATTEND SUCH A WORKSHOP IN ADVANCE OF THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON RUBBER. CONTACTS WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND SEVERAL PRODUCING DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA INDICATE THAT CABLE WAS SENT IN ANY CASE BECAUSE OF REQUEST OF

PRODUCER COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN FINAL REPORT OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON RUBBER. OBJECTIVE IS SIMPLY TO ELICIT FORMAL REPLY FROM CONSUMING COUNTRIES REGARDING THEIR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING.

- 2. MISSION CONTACTS WITH UK, CANADA, FRG DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA INDICATE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL LIKELY EITHER NOT RESPOND OR WILL TURN DOWN INVITATION. AS REPORTED IN PARA 9 REFTEL, MISSION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT (1) PRODUCER ARGUMENTS FOR CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP ARE WEAK AND (2) IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR USG OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A WORKSHOP PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF US DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER NEGOTIATIONS IRRESPECTIVE IF USG PAYS FULL COSTS.
- 3. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ASAP AND IF DECISION IS TO REJECT INVITATION, WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO SECRETARIAT OR JANUARY 6 DATE SIMPLY ALLOWED TO EXPIRE WITHOUT FORMAL REPLY.
- 4. UNLESS SECRETARIAT FINDS ADDITIONAL FUNDS, ALL INDICATIONS AT PRESENT ARE THAT THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA, NOT BANGKOK. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: COMMODITIES, RUBBER

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA12515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770476-0141 Format: TEL

From: GENEVA USEEC Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabayq.tel

Line Count: 85 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 913116ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 GENEVA 12110

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 161545 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNCTAD COMMODITIES: RUBBER: PROPOSED FIELD WORKSHOP IN KUALA LUMPUR

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/913116ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009